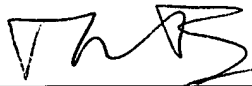


Applicants respectfully request examination of this application and timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By: 
Thomas L. Irving
Reg. No. 28,619

Dated: August 3, 2001

4000-408-4000

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